

APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FORESTS Other Lands and Land Use Plans

August 2013

Contents

Summary	4
Counties	4
Apache County	5
Greenlee County, Arizona	6
Navajo County, Arizona.....	6
Coconino County, Arizona.....	7
Catron County, New Mexico	8
Graham County, Arizona.....	8
Gila County, Arizona.....	8
Grant County, New Mexico	9
Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs).....	10
Communities, Towns, and Cities.....	11
Tribes.....	12
Fort Apache Indian Reservation (White Mountain Apache Tribe)	12
Forest Management.....	12
Recreation and Wildlife.....	14
Transportation	14
San Carlos Apache Tribe (Nde Nation).....	15
Forest Management.....	15
Recreation and Wildlife.....	15
Transportation	15
State of Arizona.....	15
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	15
Arizona Department of Water Resources.....	15
Arizona Department of Agriculture	15
Arizona Department of Transportation	16
Improvement and Construction.....	16
Long Range Planning.....	16
Scenic Byways	17
Arizona Game and Fish Department.....	17

Arizona State Forestry Division	22
Arizona State Land Department.....	23
Arizona State Parks	24
Governor’s Forest Health Councils	25
Federal	25
Bureau of Land Management	25
Future Activities	26
Federal Highway Administration	26
Forest Service.....	27
Coconino National Forest.....	27
Gila National Forest	31
Tonto National Forest	34
Four Forest Restoration Initiative	35
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.....	36
Other Land Owners.....	36
Conclusion.....	36

Other Lands and Land Use Plans

Summary

Per the provision of the 1982 planning regulations, the responsible official shall review the planning and land use policies of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and American Indian tribes. This document, along with other planning efforts, contributes to that requirement. Appendix A lists the agencies, governments, and tribes that have communicated in writing about the forest plan revision process prior to the release of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS).

Restoration will be a main focus in the revised plan. The Chief of the Forest Service Tom Tidwell has called for an “all-lands approach” to accomplish ecosystem restoration. This will involve landowners and stakeholders working together across boundaries to decide on common goals for the landscapes they share. Within the five county area of assessment¹, nearly 84 percent of land is controlled by American Indian tribes, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Arizona State Land Department, and other public agencies.

In order to facilitate this all-lands approach, it is important to understand the goals and anticipated activities landowners adjacent to the national forest. The following sections provide a summary of those goals and activities.

Counties

The Apache-Sitgreaves NFs lie in five counties: Apache, Coconino, Greenlee, and Navajo counties in Arizona and Catron County, New Mexico. The Apache National Forest portion that lies in New Mexico is administered by the Gila National Forest. The forest borders three other counties: Graham and Gila counties in Arizona and Grant County in New Mexico.

County comprehensive plans can be used as a source of information on the history of land use within the region, the patterns of development, desired conditions, and current county land use policies. County governments hold no legal authority over independent jurisdictions such as federal and state lands, incorporated cities and towns or American

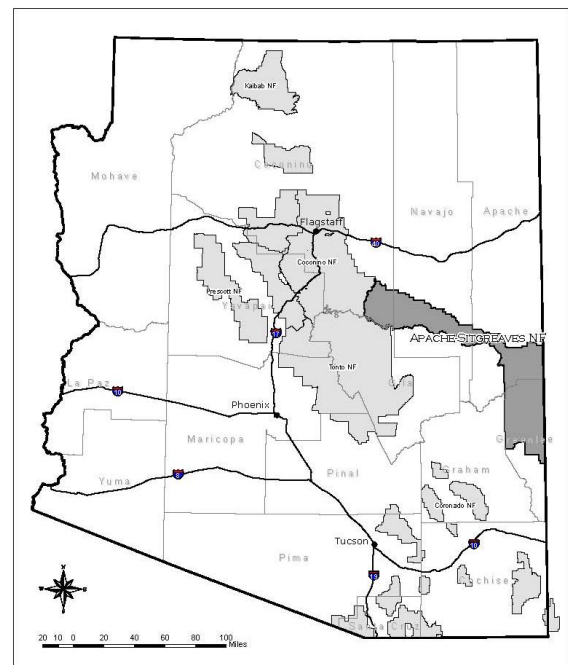


Figure 1. Location of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests within Arizona

¹ The five county area of assessment includes the Arizona counties of Apache, Coconino, Greenlee, and Navajo and Catron County, New Mexico. The area of assessment is defined in the Economic and Social Sustainability Assessment for the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest.

Indian tribal reservations.

County land use within the planning area ranges from traditional uses such as farming and ranching in rural areas to denser concentrations of residential, industrial, and commercial uses in and around more urban areas (e.g., Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside, Springerville, Eagar, Heber-Overgaard). One of the common themes is how, and whether, private owners and public land managers can manage the competing priorities of resource conservation and economic development – in particular how to cope with the growing demands for housing and recreation while ensuring preservation of a shrinking natural resource base that contributes to Arizona’s highly valued “rural character.”

Apache County

The comprehensive county plan’s vision statement includes “Apache County offers a rural character of natural beauty and abundance. This includes values such as independence, privacy, and personal freedom that attract many seeking both permanent residence and seasonal refuge.”

Only 13 percent of the county is privately owned, more than 65 percent is covered by American Indian Reservations and 21 percent is in public ownership.

There are three incorporated communities in the county, two of which border the ASNFs - Springerville and Eagar.

County lands adjacent to the ASNFs are classified as Range Land, Community Village, and Rural Edge.

- **Range Land** - The purpose of the Range Land character area is to allow cattle ranching, farming, and other traditional Apache County agricultural uses. The character area is designated for lands that are large private tracts or other property that is, and likely will continue to be, used for ranching purposes.
- **Community Village** - The purpose of the Community Village character area is to provide large areas with higher density residential development with a mix of related commercial, industrial, and institutional uses extending from highway corridors and highway intersections. Community Village is an appropriate and encouraged location for uses such as community college campuses and hospitals or medical clinics.
- **Rural Edge** - The purpose of the Rural Edge character area is to provide lower density residential development adjacent to Community Village. This character area is typically designated for property adjacent to existing or planned areas of higher density and for property within two miles of a highway or other significant road.

The county plan recognizes the National Forest System land exchange process as a growth management tool to help facilitate development new communities and discourage development in remote or sensitive areas.

One goal with direct ties with the national forest:

- Goal 9: Reduce the danger from fire for all residents living in a wildland-urban interface or near a national forest boundary.

Greenlee County, Arizona

The vision for Greenlee County from the comprehensive county plan includes the rural character, outdoor recreation, access, and natural resource harvesting and extracting.

Forest Service land makes up 64 percent of the county. Only 6 percent of the county is privately owned.

The county has two incorporated towns – Clifton and Duncan.

The county goals tied to the national forest:

- Connect the forest trails with new trails.
- Return to the multi-use of the land.
- Consider local concerns and implement appropriate actions.
- Maintain a healthy sustainable forest that provides raw materials while limiting incompatible uses.
- Develop roads in the forest for people that cannot hike or use horses.

Navajo County, Arizona

The comprehensive county plan “character areas” describe the vision for the county by helping to protect the existing community character while maximizing balanced economic development. The character areas that adjoin the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs are:

- **Community Village** - The purpose of the Community Village character area is to provide large areas with higher density residential development with a mix of related commercial, industrial and institutional uses extending from highway corridors and highway intersections. Community Village is an appropriate and encouraged location for uses such as community college campuses and hospitals or medical clinics.
- **Rural Edge** - The purpose of the Rural Edge character area is to provide lower density residential development adjacent to Community Village. The character area is typically designated for property adjacent to existing or planned areas of higher density and for property generally within two miles of a highway, Projected Future Routes, or other significant roads in the area.
- **Rural Ranch** - The purpose of the Rural Ranch character area is to preserve the open character of land traditionally used for ranching in Navajo County. A significant amount of the land designated as Rural Ranch has been divided into 36 or 40 acre parcels.

Almost 66 percent of Navajo County is American Indian reservation land

The Forest Service and BLM lands make up 9 percent of the county.

The county has six incorporated cities/towns: Holbrook, Pinetop-Lakeside, Show Low, Snowflake, Taylor, and Winslow. The Rodeo-Chediski Fir promoted a focus on long-term forest health as critical to future growth and development of the county. In particular, it focuses on population centers, paved roads, and previously treated forest areas as central to managing similar fires in the future. The plan recommends strategically located treatment programs in areas where multiple canyons converge or where canyons

allow fires from below the Mogollon Rim to reach and gain strength at higher elevations. It also recommends that the Mogollon Rim Road and State Route 260 be paved to provide broader firebreaks. It also recommends treatment of a defensible area one mile outside each populated area. The plan advocates a forest-wide management plan and professional treatment program that would eliminate excess fuels while providing forest-related jobs for the local economy.

Coconino County, Arizona

The comprehensive county plan's vision for Coconino County is based on a conservation framework and emphasizes healthy landscapes where natural resources are conserved and land is used efficiently.

Forest Service land makes up 28 percent of the county, most of the land lies within the Coconino and Kaibab National Forests and the rest lies within the Apache-Sitgreaves and Prescott National Forests.

Incorporated cities/towns include: Flagstaff, Fredonia, Page, Sedona, and Williams.

The county goals tied to the national forest:

- Improve forest health and promote the restoration of forest ecosystems.
 - New development in forested areas shall accommodate the connectivity of trails and wildlife corridors to avoid habitat fragmentation and discourage the haphazard development of social or user-created roads and trails
 - The county seeks to protect and preserve old-growth habitat and ecosystems.
 - Residents of neighborhoods in wildland-urban interface areas are encouraged to participate in forest planning, management, and restoration efforts.
- Manage recreational uses in a manner that minimizes impacts to communities and the environment.
 - The county supports private land managers, management agencies, and citizen groups in their efforts to coordinate planning and maintenance of recreational opportunities that minimize adverse impacts to natural systems and residential areas.
 - The county supports and will assist other agencies with the planning and development of designated OHV routes and educational information that addresses the needs and impacts of OHV uses.
- Concentrate development in designated growth areas while preserving open space and landscapes.
 - The county supports federal acquisition through exchange or purchase of private inholdings surrounded by Forest Service or BLM lands that are important habitat areas, that contain environmentally sensitive lands, or that would reduce fragmentation.

In the County's Implementation Plan, more focus will be made on coordination with other agencies, education, and research.

Catron County, New Mexico

Catron County borders the Apache National Forest along its eastern border. The primary land owner along the forest boundary is the Gila National Forest, although there are also several non-federal parcels.

The primary purpose of the plan for Catron County is to protect the custom, culture, and livelihoods of county residents in the face of onerous state and federal regulations. The plan states that county citizens are particularly vulnerable to “aggressive” state and federal land use policies given the fact most of the county is managed under other jurisdictions.

Government land agencies (primarily BLM and Forest Service) have jurisdiction on over 70 percent of lands in Catron County.

Reserve is the only incorporated town in Catron County.

In response to a perceived abuse of federal authority on county lands, the plan explains “all natural resource decisions affecting Catron County shall be guided by the principles of protecting private property rights, protecting local custom and culture, maintaining traditional economic structures through self-determination, and opening new economic opportunities through reliance on free markets”

The plan describes federal and state land use restrictions as arbitrary barriers that have been “illegally imposed” without county government input. This sentiment is found throughout the plan and emphasizes close coordination on the development of federal and state land use policies that are responsive to the public interest.

The Catron County plan describes both the custom and culture of the county as being linked to traditional land use practices such as livestock grazing, timber harvesting, mining, and hunting. A primary basis for the plan is the stated notion that federal regulations aimed at protecting the environment and endangered species have had a particularly detrimental effect on the economy and social stability of Catron County.

The plan does not specifically address issues such as preferred locations and densities for residential, commercial, and industrial land uses, nor does it provide guidelines or standards pertaining to community infrastructure of services.

The Catron County plan is currently being revised.

Graham County, Arizona

Graham County borders the west side of the Apache National Forest. The San Carlos Indian Reservation occupies the county adjacent to the forests. See the San Carlos Apache Tribe section for more info.

Gila County, Arizona

Gila County borders the far southwest portion of the Sitgreaves National Forest along the Mogollon Rim. The county lands adjacent to the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs are not zoned, platted, developed, or are in

extremely remote or difficult-to-access locations. The goal for these areas is to maintain a rural, very low-density, large-lot residential development.

The Southern Gila County Community Wildfire Protection plan does not identify wildland-urban interface directly adjacent to the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs. There are several wildland-urban interface areas located southwest of the forests within 20 miles.

Grant County, New Mexico

Grant County borders the far southeast portion of the Apache National Forest along the New Mexico border. The primary land owner along the boundary is the Gila National Forest, although there are also several non-federal parcels. The county currently does not have a comprehensive land use plan.

Eastern Arizona Counties Organization

The Eastern Arizona Counties Organization (ECO) is a local government organization created in 1993 to review federal programs which affect the custom, cultures, and economic well-being of the Counties. ECO represents five counties: Apache, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, and Navajo.

ECO has identified seven objectives for the counties that relate to the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs land management plan:

(1) Rangelands Resources Management

Address issues such as grazing availability, suitability, sustainability; ecological, economic and social carrying capacity; access; contribution to rural economic development; and, contribution to local Western custom and culture.

(2) Forest Products Resources Management

Address issues such as logging availability, suitability, sustainability, productivity, access; contribution to rural economic development; and, contribution to rural Western custom and culture.

(3) Mineral and Energy Resources Management

Address issues such as the availability, suitability, sustainability, productivity, access, and contribution to rural economic development of (a) solid, liquid or gaseous mineral resources and (b) solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal and other natural renewable energy resources.

(4) Motorized Travel and Recreation Management

Address issues such as motorized access; motorized travel; motorized big game retrieval; motorized dispersed camping; motorized gathering of firewood; motorized access to dispersed fishing; motorized recreation opportunities; inventoried roadless areas; wilderness area designation; motorized access to grazing and logging opportunities; contribution of motorized access, recreation and travel to rural economic development; and, contribution to local Western custom and culture.

(5) Forested Ecosystems Restoration and Catastrophic Wildfire Prevention

Address issues such as protection of Counties residents and visitors; protection of collective and individual real properties; protection of transportation, energy and water collection and distribution infrastructures; ecological restoration of forested ecosystems; local scale restoration projects; landscape scale restoration projects; social license required for the non-conflictual and non-litigious implementation of restoration efforts (such as the one requested in public statements by former USFS Southwestern Regional Forester Corbin Newman for the Four Forest Restoration Initiative); industry development required to implement and fund restoration efforts through economically viable utilization of the wood products; and, long term guarantees of wood supply necessary to attract private investments in a small diameter utilization infrastructure in northeastern Arizona

(6) Watersheds Restoration

Address issues such as ecological restoration of watersheds; protection and development of water collection and distribution infrastructures; monetization of watershed ecosystem services; downstream consumption contribution to upstream production investments and maintenance; and, interactions between watershed functions and multiple use functions.

(7) Management Areas Designation

Address issues such as the nomination, designation, and management of (a) inventoried roadless areas (which are technically not management areas per se but are an administrative designation) and (b) wilderness areas, primitive areas, research natural areas, wildlife quiet areas, and wild and scenic rivers; and, effects on socioeconomic resources and impacts on the other County objectives.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)

Three community wildfire protection plans (CWPP) outline goals for at-risk-communities within and around the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs. These plans are:

- *Community Wildfire Protection Plan for At-Risk Communities of the Apache National Forest in Apache County*
- *Community Wildfire Protection Plan for At-Risk Communities of the Sitgreaves National Forest in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo Counties*
- *Greenlee County Community Wildfire Protection Plan for At-Risk Communities of the Apache National Forest in Greenlee County*

The primary goal of the plans is for federal land to return to Condition Class I where wildfire can be incorporated into long-term management practices to sustain forest health. The plans also delineate the wildland-urban interface where human development meets and intermingles with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. The plans are used by Apache-Sitgreaves NFs' managers to help prioritize areas for fuel reduction treatments.

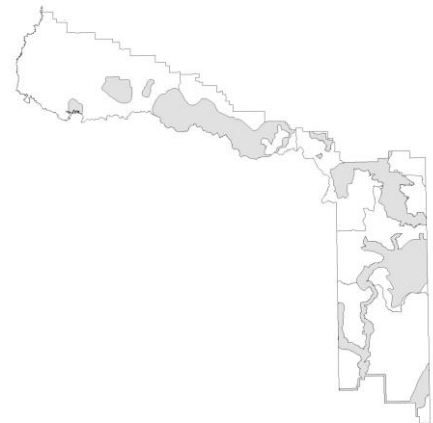


Figure 2. Shaded areas depict the wildland-urban interface identified in the three community wildfire protection plans.

Communities, Towns, and Cities

There are several communities, towns, and cities within or adjacent to the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs. These include Heber-Overgaard, Forest Lakes, Clay Springs, Pinedale, Linden, Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside, Greer, Springerville, Eagar, Nutrioso, Alpine, Blue, and Eagle Creek.

The communities surrounding the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs have a history of involvement with and dependence upon the national forests and natural resource issues in general. Arizona has long been dependent upon natural resources for commodity production, clean water, tourism, and aesthetic

enjoyment. As a result the public has frequently expressed interest in the use and management of these resources. Some recent examples:

- **Town of Pinetop-Lakeside** – In 2008, the town inquired about a special designation for Woodland Lake Park. The park is under permit by the town and is within city limits, however is located on NFS land.
- **City of Show Low** – In 2009, the city adopted a resolution supporting the Four Forest Initiative, a strategy to implement landscape-scale restoration of the region's forests, and authorizing the signing of a letter of support urging Congress to provide the necessary resources to implement it.
- **Town of Eagar** – In 2010, the town council adopted a resolution requesting the Apache-Sitgreaves NF maintain the existing management practice (allowing cross-country travel) and the accessibility of all existing roadways and trails as they currently are within the forests.

One of the most common issues of these communities is the risk associated with uncharacteristic wildfire and hazardous fuel buildup. This issue has been articulated in the community wildfire protection plans (see above).

Tribes

Federally recognized American Indian tribes occupy about 53.5 million acres (7 percent) of land in the western states. Two tribal reservations border the west side of the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs: Fort Apache Indian Reservation and San Carlos Apache Reservation. These tribes are legally considered to be sovereign nations, so the the Forest Service has a government-to-government relationship with the tribes. Tribes that enter into contracts with the federal government do so just as state governments or sovereign nations do.

In addition, the federal government also holds a special responsibility to consult with tribes over management issues that may affect them. This process is governed by a variety of federal regulations and policies, including the Forest Service Handbook (FSH 1509.13), the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act, the Tribal Forest Protection Act, the Archeological Resources Protection Act, and several presidential executive orders.

Tribes' use of Forest Service land includes free, non-permitted activities such as gathering boughs and basket materials as well as the use of products such as saw-timber. In addition, the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs include traditional cultural places, the locations of which are known only to the tribes.

Fort Apache Indian Reservation (White Mountain Apache Tribe)

Forest Management

The *2005-2014 Forest Management Plan* identifies several reservation-wide forest management objectives. They include:

- Utilize a variety of silvicultural tools including commercial harvesting, precommercial thinning, prescribed fire, site preparation, and natural and artificial regeneration to move stand structure, composition, and other characteristics toward that of the target forest.
- To the extent possible, practice uneven-aged management within ponderosa pine and mixed conifer stands. Even-aged methods are silviculturally appropriate for spruce and aspen stands, fire damaged areas, or areas with severe insect or disease infestations.
- Maintain forest qualities that will protect or provide wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, good forage, quality scenery, clean rivers and streams, and other multiple-use values.
- Improve wildlife habitat by increasing production of forage and browse and diversity in species, density, and cover.
- Enhance opportunities for livestock production by increasing abundance and vigor of palatable forage, through density management of overstory trees. Work with range conservationists to coordinate any grazing deferments or systematic grazing schedules that benefit the resource as a whole.
- Protect soil and water quality by developing prescriptions that will enhance watershed condition through time.
- Conduct harvest operations to obtain as complete utilization of forest products as practical. Assist the White Mountain Apache Tribe in developing markets for previously under-utilized forest products or species.
- Minimize threat to life and property, and damage to forests, soils and watersheds from catastrophic wildfire through effective fire prevention, enforcement, pre-suppression, and suppression programs.
- Provide sufficient initial attack forces to confine fires as soon as possible. For fires which escape, or are expected to escape initial attack, systematically build up suppression and support forces to the level required to bring about control in a safe, effective, and efficient manner.
- Manage natural and activity-created wildland fuels to reduce wildfire size, intensity, behavior, and threat to life and property.

The Forest Management Plan divides the reservation into twelve management emphasis areas (MEAs) including Wilderness, Sensitive Fish, Sensitive Plants, Water, Sensitive Wildlife, Recreation, Sensitive Sites, Scenic Byways, Community, Fuels Management, Limited Management, and Forest Products.

Management emphasis and concerns vary by the MEA:

- The Wilderness MEA provides direction for the Mount Baldy Wilderness Area, a tribally designated area. Wildfires are suppressed in this area. Some prescribed fire may be used. No timber harvesting or road building is allowed.
- Sensitive Fish MEA are defined to include 200 feet on each side of a river or stream identified as sensitive fish habitat. The plan places special emphasis on Apache trout and loach minnow.
- The Sensitive Plant MEA focuses on the protection of Arizona willow.
- The Water Management MEA focuses on water quality of areas adjacent to perennial water sources. Standards include Best Management Practices (BMPs).

- Sensitive Wildlife MEA consists of lands defined as Mexican spotted owl territories. The reservation also manages for six other wildlife species that are federally listed or tribally sensitive: bald eagle, southwestern willow flycatcher, American peregrine falcon, Mexican gray wolf, jaguar, and the Chiricahua leopard frog.
- The Cultural Heritage Sites MEA focuses on avoiding or mitigating adverse effects to all heritage resources.
- The Developed Recreation MEA provides management direction for developed campgrounds.
- The Scenic Byways MEA provides a 200-foot management zone on State Routes 60, 73, 260, 273, and 473; Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Road 55, and most heavily traveled gravel roads. The objective is to enhance and sustain aesthetics along the corridors.
- The Community MEA provides direction for current community areas and infrastructure.
- The Fuels MEA consists of wildland-urban interface (WUI) and Hazard Fuel Reduction treatment areas. The objective is to provide defensible space in and around communities and to reduce ladder fuels and tree densities through active management.
- The Limited MEA consists of Bull Cienega, the Hurricane Management Area, and the Lofer Cienega Reserve which are deferred from regulated timber harvesting.
- The Forest Products MEA includes commercial timberlands, woodlands, and grasslands that are managed for the sustainable production of a full spectrum of forest resources.

Recreation and Wildlife

Recreation is managed with a permit system for fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, river rafting, sightseeing, picnicking, biking, and cross country skiing.

The Tribe offers a trophy elk hunting program that has been in operation since 1976.

Transportation

There are approximately 1,000 miles of roadways on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. There are also about 128 miles of State highways, including State Route 73 located in the northern part of the reservation and passing through the communities of Fort Apache and White Mountain. U.S. Highway 60/State Route 77 runs from the Salt River Canyon and the border with the San Carlos Indian Reservation to the intersection with State Route 260, just north of the reservation border. State Route 260 is an east-west route in the northeast corner of the reservation that goes through Hon-Dah and McNary. The BIA agency roads engineer works closely with the tribe on transportation. The BIA has staff on the reservation and is responsible for the roads' programming and maintenance. The BIA has a consulting contract to develop the long-range transportation plan for the tribe. As of 2004, ongoing and proposed road projects included the reconstruction of BIA Road 690, the construction of dirt and gravel roads in residential areas of McNary, the stabilization, and resurfacing of an eight-mile stretch of BIA Road 69, and a cooperative project with ADOT to improve the intersection of State Road 73 and State Road 260 (FHWA 2004).

San Carlos Apache Tribe (Nde Nation)

Forest Management

At the time of this writing, we did not have a copy of the land management plan. However, a review of the San Carlos Forestry website indicates that the tribe has a forest resources program, including timber sales, thinning, wood cutting, and fire activities.

Recreation and Wildlife

A recreation permit is required for non-tribal members and allows entry on the Reservation for any recreational activities (e.g., hike, picnic, tour, camping), other than hunting or fishing.

Wildlife resources include Rocky Mountain Elk, Coues whitetail deer, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, desert big horn sheep, javelina, pronghorn antelope, black bear, mountain lion, wild turkey, predators and other small game. The Drylake and Hilltop trophy elk units are managed for older age structure and have produced some of the largest elk in the world.

Transportation

The San Carlos Apache Tribe does not receive the same Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) transportation planning support as the White Mountain Apache Tribe; however, information on transportation issues on the San Carlos Apache Reservation can be requested through the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona's Transportation Working Group.

State of Arizona

The Apache-Sitgreaves NFs is located in the State of Arizona. State regulatory agencies, as well as adjacent State-owned lands, affect the management of the national forest.

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's mission is to protect and enhance public health, welfare, and the environment in Arizona. The agency serves as the State's environmental regulatory agency in the areas of air and water quality and waste programs. Forest management activities strive to be in compliance with the applicable Arizona Revised Statutes (particularly Title 49 which outlines specifics such as water quality standards and total maximum daily loads).

Arizona Department of Water Resources

The Arizona Department of Water Resources mission is to secure long-term dependable water supplies for Arizona. The ADWR administers and enforces the State's groundwater code and surface water rights laws. Title 45 of the Arizona revised statutes contains the provisions related to water and groundwater resources.

Arizona Department of Agriculture

The Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADWR) is the State's regulatory agency for agriculture, including animals, plants, and environmental services. Title 3 of the Arizona Revised Statutes contains the

provisions related to agricultural topics such as dangerous plant pests and diseases, pesticides, brands and marks, and seizure of livestock.

Arizona Department of Transportation

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is responsible for planning, building, and operating a state highway system and maintaining bridges.

Improvement and Construction

The *State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Fiscal Years 2010-2013* was completed in January 2010. The *2011-2015 Five-year Transportation Facilities Construction Program* was approved on June 23, 2010. These documents identify planned improvements and construction over the next several fiscal years. The planned improvements to the following highways and forest highways may affect forest management:

- **Forest Highway 43-1 Sunrise Park to Big Lake** – FY2010 grading, drainage and paving work were initiated; project expected to be complete in FY2013
- **State Route 260 Heber to Show Low** – FY2011 construct passing lanes
- **U.S. Highway 60 Show Low to Little Mormon Lake** – FY2014 widen highway
- **National Scenic Byways Statewide** – FY2011 install signs

Several highway improvement studies are also underway, include State Route 260 (from Overgaard to the junction of U.S. Highway 60)

Long Range Planning

The ADOT is in the midst of updating the State Long-Range Transportation Plan. As of January 2011, the goals and objectives of the plan were final. The full plan is scheduled for completion by June 2011. The goals and select objectives follow:

- **Improve Mobility and Accessibility** – Implement critical and cost effective investments in infrastructure to expand access to transportation and optimize mobility and reliability in the transportation of passengers and freight.
- **Preserve and Maintain the System** – Maintain, preserve and extend the service life of existing and future State transportation system infrastructure.
- **Link Transportation and Land Use** – Protect the capacity of the state transportation system by developing policies and partnerships that strengthen the coordination of land use and transportation planning and implementation.
 - Objectives focus on coordinating with public agency land use planning.
- **Support Economic Development** – Develop and operate a State transportation system that provides predictable freight and people movement throughout the State to support a competitive and thriving economy for Arizona.
- **Enhance Safety and Security** – Continue to improve transportation system safety and ensure the security of the transportation system.

- Objectives – maintain and enhance transportation safety, reducing crashes, injuries and fatalities.
- **Promote Natural, Cultural, and the Environmental Resources** – Protect and restore the natural, cultural, environmental resources of Arizona while improving and maintaining the transportation system.
 - Objectives include implement transportation solutions that improve mobility, enhance communities, and protect and restore the environment; implement an ecological connectivity approach to transportation planning and system development; collaborate with government agencies and other stakeholders to identify and consider natural habitats, the human environment and protected natural or cultural resources when planning new or improved transportation services.
- **Promote Fiscal Stewardship** – Provide a sound financial base for Arizona’s transportation system through responsible management of public assets and resources and identification and implementation of funding strategies to ensure long term balanced investment in the State’s transportation system.
- **Strengthen Partnerships** – Develop and nurture partnerships that support coordination and integration of ADOTs planning and investment in State transportation infrastructure with public and private organizations and agencies responsible for land use, conservation, and environmental planning, and freight infrastructure.

Scenic Byways

The Arizona Department of Transportation’s Environmental and Enhancement Group prepared the *Coronado Trail Corridor Management Plan* in March 2005. This plan identifies the goals and objectives for the byway corridor.

Arizona Game and Fish Department

The Arizona Game and Fish Department’s (AGFD) *Strategic Plan for the Years 2007-2012 Wildlife 2012* provides the management direction for the department’s program of work. The plan contains several goals and objectives that may have an impact on Apache-Sitgreaves NFs management:

- **Wildlife Resource Management:** Conserve, preserve, enhance, and restore wildlife populations and their habitats.
 - Conserve, preserve, enhance, and restore Arizona’s wildlife habitat and resources while balancing resource needs with recreational uses.
 - Maintain or improve the quality and connectivity of habitats to support a diversity of wildlife species.
 - Minimize the negative impacts of invasive species on wildlife and their habitats.
 - Improve the status of wildlife, with particular emphasis on those species listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need.
 - Provide for sustainable use of wildlife by people.
- **Wildlife Recreation** – Increase the opportunity for the public to enjoy Arizona’s wildlife resources, while maintaining and improving wildlife resources. In addition, address the

underlying reasons for denial of public access across private lands by providing technical and financial assistance to private landowners and educating the public about ethical use and habitat protection.

- Encourage continued compliance with regulations governing wildlife-related recreational activities.
 - Promote public safety during wildlife-related recreation activities.
 - Increase opportunities for use and enjoyment of wildlife.
 - Increase participation in wildlife-oriented recreational activities.
 - Provide access to public and other lands that are blocked by private lands.
- **Public Awareness, Support and Involvement** - Maintain an informed and supportive public that recognizes its ownership and stewardship responsibilities for wildlife resources and helps to disseminate and act upon messages about watercraft safety and the safe, responsible and ethical use of off-highway vehicles.
 - Increase public awareness and support of the North American Model of wildlife management. The North American Model asserts that wildlife is held in public trust — not owned by any one person or entity, regardless of whether the animal is on public or private land or water. Professionals manage wildlife based on the overall public good.
 - Increase the percentage of the public that identifies the Department as the State agency responsible for wildlife management in Arizona.
 - Promote the widespread use of environmental education curriculum in public, private, charter and home schools.
 - Improve media and e-newsletter communication.
 - Increase efforts to inform the public about living responsibly with wildlife.
 - Increase participation in hunter education, aquatic education, boating safety education and shooting sports programs
- **Off-highway Vehicle, Watercraft and Shooting Sports Recreation Goals** - Increase the opportunity for the public to enjoy shooting sports. Encourage participation in education and information programs supporting safe and responsible use of off-highway vehicles and watercraft, while maintaining or improving wildlife resources and habitats.
 - Encourage continued compliance with regulations governing watercraft, off-highway vehicle, and recreational shooting sports activities.
 - Reinforce public safety during watercraft, off-highway vehicle and recreational shooting sports activities.
 - Increase management of off-highway vehicles and efforts to minimize their impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat.
 - Improve the watercraft recreational experience.
 - Minimize impacts to aquatic resources from increased watercraft use.
 - Increase participation in boating safety education and shooting sports programs.
 - Continue to work with interested user groups and agencies to protect existing funding and acquire new funding sources dedicated to safe and responsible off-highway vehicle use.

- **Customer Diversity** – Increase customer diversity to better reflect the demographics of Arizona.
 - Increase the diversity of Department customers (e.g., culture, ethnicity, sex, age, income, and ability).
- **Partnerships** - Maintain and develop effective partnerships that enable the Department and its partners to reach mutual goals.
 - Enhance the Department's ability to manage wildlife resources.
 - Reinforce responsible and safe OHV and watercraft recreation that minimizes impacts on wildlife resources and habitats.
 - Provide recreational shooting opportunities through partnerships

The Arizona State Wildlife Action Plan, titled Arizona's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005-2015, was approved in 2006 and provides the vision for managing Arizona's fish, wildlife, and wildlife habitats over the next ten years. The plan contains several key elements which may provide information to or have an impact on Apache-Sitgreaves NFs management:

- **Species of Greatest Conservation Need** – The AGFD prioritized a list of species for conservation actions aimed at improving conditions for those species through intervention at the population or habitat level. Over 300 species were identified as being vulnerable or the species with the greatest conservation needs.
- **Habitats of Greatest Conservation Need** – The AGFD divided the State into 17 vegetation types. All of these habitats were treated as habitat in need of conservation. A statewide habitat analysis that answers the question of where to focus in each habitat has not been completed.
- **Stressors/Threats to Arizona's Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats** – The AGFD identified 70 stressors that have serious impacts to habitat in Arizona and an additional 4 stressors that act on species alone. The stressors were categorized into: a rapidly increasing human population, changes to water storage and delivery systems in the Southwest, alteration of communities by invasive nonnative species, and the ongoing drought and warming trend.
- **Conservation Actions for Arizona's CWCS** – The AGFD identified several action items to address stressors, these action items will be implemented where feasible and appropriate.
 - Conserving wildlife habitat
 - Promote the restoration and protection of aquifers, springs, streams, rivers, lakes, and riparian systems. Support regulations ensuring minimum instream flow and water rights for wildlife resources.
 - Perform landscape classification analyses to identify sensitive habitats, core wildlife areas, and important wildlife corridors.
 - Acquire ecologically important lands, access agreements, conservation easements, and/or water rights.
 - Support State planning efforts to address drought issues as they relate to wildlife resources.
 - Maintaining and re-establishing habitat and habitat connectivity

- Promote maintenance and restoration of habitat connectivity by removing or modifying barriers, protecting corridors and riparian areas, and using wildlife-friendly roadway crossing structures.
- Promote maintenance and restoration of habitat connectivity by removing unneeded fences, by using wildlife-friendly barriers in future projects and when replacing old fences.
- Develop standards for new roads, utility and power lines construction, and modification of existing structures and corridors to reduce impacts to wildlife.
- Wildlife management
 - Promote implementation of recovery plans, habitat conservation plans, and other cooperative agreements for sustaining wildlife resources. Develop plans to conserve priority conservation species (Focal Community; Responsibility, and Vulnerability categories) that are not sufficiently addressed under existing plans.
 - Manage so as to sustain or enhance sport fish and native fish populations.
 - Develop contingency plans for rapid salvage of wildlife populations threatened with extirpation in situations of imminent habitat loss.
 - Maintain and construct new wildlife water developments. Encourage conversion of livestock waters so they are also continuously usable by wildlife.
 - Collaborate with partners to evaluate sampling techniques, reduce duplication of effort, and develop pathogen decontamination protocols to limit impacts to wildlife.
 - Collaborate with partners on disease/pathogen/parasite issues to wildlife including: development of action plans to manage existing sources, identify, and respond to new threats, and to educate the public.
 - Evaluate, update, and enforce existing Department regulations to address evolving concerns about hybridization, nuisance animals, illegal stocking, and spread of animals used for bait.
 - Reduce/eliminate the effects of feral animal populations in sensitive habitats or near wildlife populations of concern.
- Public education and law enforcement to benefit wildlife and wildlife habitat
 - Educate the public about the impacts of free-ranging or feral animals, release of non-native species, and illegal stocking of fish and live bait on wildlife resources. Increase enforcement of existing laws and promote more stringent laws prohibiting the release of domestic or nonnative animals into the wild.
 - Utilize education and enforcement to promote human behavior that does not encourage wildlife to become a nuisance (e.g., feeding wildlife, securing waste containers, and storage of food). Increase awareness of effects of feeding and litter on wildlife.
 - Increase public awareness of how water conservation and ensuring instream flow can benefit wildlife.
 - Encourage the use of low water-use native plants in landscaping.

- Educate the public regarding identification of contaminants, release prevention, and impacts to wildlife and habitats. Promote alternatives that reduce release of contaminants.
- Encourage cooperative clean up efforts of wildlife habitats.
- Increase public awareness of the potential effects of various types of recreation on wildlife resources. Encourage responsible outdoor recreation through education (e.g., “Stay on the Trails,” “Leave No Trace,” “Be Bear Aware,” and “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers”), enforce existing laws, and encourage development of new legislation.
- Inform the public and land management agencies on the effects of illegal harvest of wildlife. Cooperate with land management agencies to increase enforcement of existing laws.
- Support prevention and suppression of accidental or arson-caused wildfire through information and education and enforcement of appropriate regulations
- Educate the public on the importance of community focal species (including predators, prey, wide-ranging species, keystone species, etc.) for ecosystem health.
- Representing wildlife values in multiple-use planning
 - Provide recommendations to State and Federal partners on the development of new land management plans or revising existing plans as they relate to wildlife resources.
 - Cooperate with State, Federal, tribal, and local government partners to develop and implement watershed management plans that incorporate wildlife and habitat values.
 - Prevent loss and degradation of sensitive habitats through involvement of planning efforts with local governments, private landowners, and agency/tribal land managers.
 - Promote restoration of natural fire regimes for improving grassland and forest health.
 - Promote adoption of sustainable forage management standards and guidelines for livestock and wildlife.
 - Promote conservation of sensitive areas and habitats for wildlife.
 - Encourage development and implementation of standards and guidelines for mining and landfill operations that consider the needs of wildlife resources.
 - Encourage land management agencies to manage road and trail networks to ensure sustainable wildlife resources in balance with recreational opportunities, economic pursuits, and rural development.
 - Coordinate with land managers, counties, municipalities, and private sector partners to promote ecologically sensitive design of recreational facilities such as campgrounds, parks, golf courses, ski resorts, etc.
- Representing wildlife values in other processes
 - Coordinate to reduce impacts to wildlife along the U.S.-Mexico border.

- Encourage the operation of dams, canals, and diversions for improving or maintaining wildlife resources. Promote wildlife values in building new, renovating existing, or removing old water retaining structures.
- Promote programs for eliminating or limiting the spread of invasive plants and animals, and the recovery or reintroduction of native populations.
- Limit the spread of invasive plants and promote the restoration of native vegetation in disturbed areas.
- Support land management and regulatory agencies in enforcing Best Management Practices to prevent the introduction of toxins into ecosystems.
- Promote the use of engineered wetlands, discharge basins, and augmented riparian vegetation to pre-treat water prior to release into riparian systems. Promote the use of treated effluent to create wildlife habitat.
- Cooperate with land management agencies and municipalities on revising waste management plans to minimize impacts to wildlife resources.

Arizona State Forestry Division

The Arizona State Forester oversees the Arizona State Forestry Division (ASFD). The ASFD mission is to manage and reduce wildfire risk to Arizona's people, communities, and wildland areas and provide forest resource stewardship through strategic implementation of forest health policies and cooperative forestry assistance programs. In 2010, the ASFD released the *Arizona Forest Resource Assessment* (Arizona State Forestry Division 2010) and *Arizona Forest Resource Strategy* (Arizona State Forestry Division 2010a).

The strategy identifies seven major resource issues and their related goals. The Apache-Sitgreaves NFs is a key partner and stakeholder in helping to implement this strategy.

1. People and Forests
 - a. *Goal 1:* People and communities receive maximum benefits from forests and trees.
 - b. *Goal 2:* Minimized human impacts to trees and forests.
2. Ecosystem Health
 - a. *Goal 1:* Resilient and diverse ecosystem structures, processes, and functions.
 - b. *Goal 2:* Progress toward landscape scale outcomes, restoration of unhealthy ecosystems, and enhanced sustainability with limited negative impacts.
3. Water & Air
 - a. *Water Goal 1:* Improved water quality and quantity from forested watershed.
 - b. *Water Goal 2:* Improved health and resiliency of forested aquatic systems (riparian areas, springs, and wet meadows.)
 - c. *Water Goal 3:* Increased public understanding of the importance of forests to Arizona's water quality.
 - d. *Air Goal 1:* Improved air quality.
 - e. *Air Goal 2:* Increased public understanding of the importance and effects of fire on Arizona's air quality.
4. Fire

- a. *Goal 1:* Wildland ecosystems where appropriate fire regimes maintain health and resiliency of natural vegetation.
 - b. *Goal 2:* "Fire Adapted Communities" that provide shared stakeholder responsibility for healthy landscapes and wildfire prepared communities.
 - c. *Goal 3:* Enhanced wildland fire management capacity in Arizona.
 - d. *Goal 4:* An Arizona public and government leadership that is well informed about wildland fire management, science, and prevention issues.
- 5. Economics
 - a. *Goal 1:* Realized long-term economic potential of sustainable forest products and bioenergy (while achieving Ecosystem Health goals).
 - b. *Goal 2:* Protection of areas with economic development potential related to ecosystem services.
 - c. *Goal 3:* Community recognition of the economic importance to protecting healthy natural systems.
- 6. Climate Change
 - a. *Goal 1:* Increased resilience of ecosystems to climate change.
 - b. *Goal 2:* Reduced rate of future climate change through maximized carbon sequestration in Arizona forests and trees.
- 7. Culture
 - a. *Goal 1:* Improved communication between all land management agencies, indigenous tribes, and other cultural groups about varying perspectives and beliefs related to forests, trees, and other natural resources.
 - b. *Goal 2:* Effective collaboration mechanisms for sharing of information about resources, priorities, policies, and management strategies between Tribes and non-Tribal organizations.

Arizona State Land Department

The practice of allocating public lands for various beneficiaries in Arizona dates back to the founding of the territory in 1863. The current system of managing these lands, referred to as State Trust lands, was established with the Arizona State Land Department (AZSLD) in 1915.

Since its inception, the AZSLD has been granted authority over all trust lands as well as the natural products they provide. This authority over trust land is central to the AZSLD's primary mission of maximizing revenues for its beneficiaries, a role that distinguishes it from other agencies charged with management of public lands (e.g., national parks, national forests, state parks).

As of 2008, the AZSLD managed over 9 million acres in land holdings for 14 beneficiaries, the most prominent of which is the K-12 public school system. Most of the state lands can be used for livestock grazing purposes only. Public use of the lands is regulated by permit. A recreational permit allows the signatory limited privileges to use State Trust Land for some recreation, namely hiking, horseback riding, picnics, bicycling, photography, sightseeing, and bird watching. Camping is restricted to no more than 14 days per year. Off-highway vehicle travel on State Trust Land is not permitted without proper licensing.

The AZSLD may dispose of (exchange) or lease the lands for natural resource use or commercial development purposes. Since state lands border much of the national forests, especially the southern portion of the Apache and the northern portions of both the Apache and Sitgreaves, any changes in management could affect the management of the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs. The AZSLD prepares a fire year plan that represents potential areas of concern to initiate land sales and long term leases. As of January 2011, this plan was not available.

Arizona State Parks

The mission of the Arizona State Parks (ASP) is to manage and conserve Arizona's natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the benefit of the people, both in the parks and through our partners (Arizona State Parks 2010).

ASP manages several parks across Arizona. Four of these parks are near or on the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs; these include Fool Hollow Lake, Lyman Lake, Tonto Natural Bridge, and Roper Lake. The Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area, located on the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs, is operated by ASP.

Arizona State Parks have seen a continual increase in visitation over the years, with over 1,000,000 visitors in 1985 to over 2,000,000 visitors in 2010 (Arizona State Parks 2010). The State and National financial crisis impacted the management of state parks. In FY2010, the ASP reduced the number of employees and closed 13 of its 28 parks (Arizona State Parks 2010).

The 2008 Arizona Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) identifies the State's outdoor recreation priorities. The priority issues include: secure sustainable funding; plan for growth/secure open space; resolve conflicts; improve collaborative planning and partnerships; respond to the needs of special populations and changing demographics; fill the gaps between supply and demand; secure access to public lands and across State Trust Lands; protect Arizona's natural and cultural resources; communicate with and educate the public (Arizona State Parks 2007). Several action items have the potential to influence NFS lands:

- Look holistically across geographic boundaries, disciplines, governments, private interests, generations and examine all benefits and costs, not just fiscal costs (in reference to growth).
- Expand options such as private landowner incentive programs and recreational liability laws, which would allow public access across private and State and Federal leased lands,
- Provide for OHV use on public lands but manage it properly, to reduce conflicts with other recreation users and minimize the activity's impacts on natural and cultural resources, as is done for other recreational activities. Implement standards for constructing sustainable OHV routes, involving user groups in planning, building and maintaining satisfactory routes and facilities, and enacting and enforcing consistent OHV laws and regulations.
- State and Federal agencies should implement coordinated interagency planning efforts for new recreational areas and trail systems to ensure an equitable regional distribution of desired recreational opportunities and access to natural environments.

The SCORP also identifies the major impacts and trends related to outdoor recreation in Arizona. Arizona offers a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities with 6 national forests, 21 national park sites, 8 national wildlife refuges, 8 Bureau of Land Management field offices, 21 American Indian tribes, 30 State Parks, 23 State wildlife areas, and hundreds of county and city parks and recreation areas. These public lands provide opportunities for activities such as picnicking, developed and primitive camping, wilderness backpacking, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, boating, water skiing, rock climbing, four-wheel driving, motorized trail biking, all-terrain vehicle riding and snowmobiling, among others (Arizona State Parks 2007).

The Arizona Trails 2010: State Motorized and Non-motorized Recreation Trails plan provides information and recommendations to guide ASP and other agencies in their management of trails. The priority recommendations for motorized trails are: protect access to trails/acquire land for public access; maintain and renovate existing trails and routes; mitigate and restore damage to areas surrounding trails, routes, and areas; and establish and designate motorized trails, routes, and areas. The priority recommendations for non-motorized trails are: maintain existing trails, keep trails in good condition; and protect access to trails/acquire land for public access (Arizona State Parks 2009).

Governor's Forest Health Councils

In 2003, Governor Janet Napolitano formed the Forest Health Advisory Council and the Forest Health Oversight Council in response to the growing number, frequency, and intensity of uncharacteristic wildfires threatening Arizona's resources and communities. In 2007, the councils produced the *Statewide Strategy for Restoring Arizona's Forests*. The report identifies five key strategies. The White Mountain Stewardship Project on the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs is one of the key tools in implementing the strategy.

1. Increase the human and financial resources dedicated to restoring Arizona's forests and protecting communities.
2. Coordinate and implement action at the landscape-scale.
3. Increase the efficiency of restoration, fire management, and community protection activities.
4. Encourage ecologically sustainable, forest-based economic activity.
5. Build public support for accomplishing restoration, community protection, and fire management across the state.

Federal

Other federal agencies affect the management of the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs, either because they have lands that adjoin the forests (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, other national forests), they manage features that occur on the national forest (e.g., Federal Highway Administration), or they have oversight responsibilities (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Bureau of Land Management

The majority of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land that is adjacent to the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs occurs on the southern border of the Apache and is administered by the Safford Field Office. The 1991

Safford District Resource Management Plan provides guidance to the district in the management of its resources. The plan addresses the following issues: access, area of critical environmental concerns and other types of special management areas, off-highway vehicles, riparian areas, wildlife habitat, lands and realty, outdoor recreation and visual resource management, energy and minerals, cultural resources, soil erosion, vegetation, water resources, air quality, and paleontological resources.

The focus of active management includes riparian improvement treatments, wildlife habitat improvement projects (including prescribed fire and suppression), soil erosion reduction, land treatments or vegetation manipulation including mechanical, chemical or prescribed fire, and firewood cutting. The majority of the public lands are managed to limit off-highway vehicle use to existing roads and trails. The 1,708-acre Hot Well Dunes is open to off-highway vehicle use anywhere in the area.

The only Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) or Coordinated Resource Management Plan Area that borders the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs is the 120 acre Coronado Mountain Research Natural Area (RNA) ACEC. This area is managed to exclude rights-of-way, mineral entry and woodcutting; use prescribed fire; and preserve their scenic quality.

Future Activities

A review of the 2011 NEPA Project Log for the Safford Field Office showed that no projects are currently planned. However, personal communication with the district staff highlighted activities that are occurring near Apache-Sitgreaves lands: renewable energy (including windfarm installations north of the forest and potential energy transmission corridors), potential juniper thinning on BLM lands north of the forest, and burning south of the forests.

The District has several on-going projects (Aravaipa Ecosystem Management Plan, Proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Line Project, Chiricahua FireScope Project), although they occur in the southeastern part of the State.

Federal Highway Administration

The role of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is to ensure that America's roads and highways are safe and technologically up-to-date. Although most highways are owned by State, local, and tribal governments, FHWA provides financial and technical support. The Federal Lands Highways funding provides dollars for roads and highways within federally owned lands, such as national forests.

The Central Federal Lands Highway division, of which Arizona is a part, is in the process of developing its long-range transportation plan. The planning effort has identified two major trends: 1) Arizona population is increasing primarily in urban areas, and 2) forest visitation and recreation is increasing as a result of population increase. Within Arizona, 12 percent of the paved forest highway network is rated as poor or failed, while 7 percent of the unpaved network is rated as poor or failed, and 3 percent of the bridges are in poor condition.

Table 1. Forest Highways located on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

Forest Highway	Owner	Road Type	Condition
FH 41	Federal	Paved	Poor

FH 40	Federal	Unpaved	Good
FH 11 (SR 260)	State	Paved	Good
FH 30	State	Paved	Excellent
FH 43	State	Paved/Unpaved	Excellent
FH 35 (SR 261)	State	Paved	Fair
FH 20 (U.S. 180)	State	Paved	Good
FH 42	Federal	Unpaved	Good
FH 19 (U.S. 191)	State	Paved	Fair

Forest Highway 43 improvements, including paving, are near completion as of January 2011. These upgrades to the highway have the potential to change visitor use.

Forest Service

Three national forests border the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs: the Coconino, Tonto, and Gila National Forests. Each of these forests' management is guided by a land management plan. The Coconino National Forest is currently in the process of revising their plan; the Tonto and Gila National Forests are expected to revise their plans in the near future. As forest management changes are proposed, the forests coordinate and adjust their management strategies as appropriate.

Coconino National Forest

The Coconino National Forest is managed by their forest plan originally developed in August 1987. The plan identifies several forestwide goals for 19 topic areas:

- **Outdoor Recreation**
 - Manage the recreation resource to increase opportunities for a wide variety of developed and dispersed experiences.
 - Maintain and enhance visual resource values by including visual quality objectives in resource planning and management activities.
 - Provide visitor information services (VIS) to interpret the resources, uses, and management of the forest.
 - Maintain a variety of forest trails that include foot, horse, bicycle, and motorized trails, and challenge and adventure opportunities, as well as opportunities for the handicapped.
 - Continue to integrate the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) system into the forest planning process to quantify recreation opportunities changes, guide management, and coordinate recreation with other resources.
 - Manage off-road driving to provide opportunities while protecting resources and minimizing conflicts with other users.
 - Inventory, evaluate, nominate, protect, study, interpret, and enhance cultural resources in accordance with the management prescriptions.
 - Preserve and protect non-renewable cave resources so their scientific and aesthetic value does not diminish. Conserve wildlife habitat provided by caves. Prevent contamination of important water supplies which drain into, issue from or are contained within caves. Encourage partnerships with caving organizations, scientists and outdoor

recreationists. Manage caves and cave resources to provide a range of recreational opportunities. Promote cave conservation through interpretation and education.

- **Wilderness**

- Provide a wilderness management program that achieves high quality wilderness values while providing for quality wilderness recreation experiences. Allow wildfire to play a more natural role. Protect the current status of air quality related values (AQRV's) in the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Class I Airshed. Treat other wilderness areas in the same manner as Class I Airsheds.
- Initiate the Wilderness Opportunity Spectrum (WOS) system in forest wilderness areas. Develop wilderness management direction that establishes Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC).

- **Wildlife and Fish**

- Manage habitat to maintain viable populations of wildlife and fish species and improve habitat for selected species.
- Cooperate with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) to at least achieve management goals and objectives specified in the Arizona Wildlife and Fisheries Comprehensive Plans and strategic plans, and on proposals for reintroduction of extirpated species into suitable habitat. No unapproved species are introduced. Support the AGFD in meeting its objectives for animals and other species as they become threatened or endangered.
- Improve habitat for listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive species of plants and animals and other species as they become threatened or endangered.
- Work toward recovery and delisting threatened and endangered species.
- Identify and protect areas that contain threatened, endangered, and sensitive species of plants and animals.
- Increase opportunities for wildlife and fish oriented recreation activities.

- **Riparian**

- Accomplish 80percent of the riparian recovery by 2030. The remaining 20 percent will be significantly improved, but will not have all of the characteristics of a fully recovered riparian area, such as 3 age classes of woody vegetation.
- Cooperate with AGFD to achieve management goals and objectives in the Arizona Cold Water Fisheries Strategic Plan.

- **Range**

- Emphasize high quality range forage and improvements. Manage grazing generally at the D intensity level.
- Cooperate with private range owners and other agencies to develop coordinated range management systems of livestock grazing.

- **Noxious and Invasive Weeds**

- Prevent any new noxious or invasive weed species from becoming established, contain or control the spread of known weed species, and eradicate species that are the most invasive and pose the greatest threat to biological diversity and watershed condition.

- **Timber**
 - Manage the timber resource to provide a sustained-yield of forest products through integrated stand management. On forested lands identified as suitable for commercial timber production, design timber management activities to integrate considerations for economics, water quality, soils, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, visual quality, and other values. Develop and implement a sustained-yield program for firewood and other miscellaneous forest products including posts, poles, Christmas trees, and wildings. Emphasize uneven-aged management for timber cutting areas.
 - Manage resources to prevent a build-up of insects and diseases to prevent or reduce serious, long lasting hazards through integrated pest management (IPM).
- **Soil, Water, and Air Quality**
 - Maintain or, where needed, enhance soil productivity and watershed condition. Put all areas in a satisfactory watershed condition by 2020. Maintain a high quality sustained water yield for forest users and others. Identify and protect wetlands and floodplains. Consider air quality during prescribed fires especially Class I areas over wildernesses.
- **Minerals**
 - Support sound energy and minerals exploration and development. Administer the mineral laws and regulations to minimize adverse surface resource impacts.
- **Lands**
 - Acquire lands that are needed for landownership consolidation and improved management efficiency through land exchange, purchase, or donation.
 - Acquire the road and trail rights-of-way needed to administer the forest and produce resource outputs.
 - Resolve unauthorized occupancy and trespass.
 - Administer the Small Tracts Act to best serve the public and benefit the resources.
 - Manage summer home tracts and organization camps for the public benefit.
 - Administer special uses to best meet public needs.
 - Minimize the number of electronic sites and utility corridors consistent with appropriate public services that can only be met on Forest lands.
- **Transportation and Administrative Facilities**
 - Provide and manage a serviceable road transportation system that meets needs for public access, land management, resource protection, and user safety. Provisions are made for construction/reconstruction, maintenance, seasonal and special closures, and obliterating unnecessary roads.
 - Provide administrative facilities to meet resource and activity needs and that meet Federal and State pollution abatement, and handicap access standards where applicable.
 - Implement a long-range building betterment program and, when needed, plan new construction. Develop a long-range water and sewage system betterment program.
- **Protection**

- Use fire as a resource management tool where it can effectively accomplish resource management objectives. Use fire prevention and control to protect life, property, and resources.
- **Law Enforcement**
 - Cooperate with State and local law enforcement agencies and provide Forest Level IV officers to properly protect forest resources, employees, visitors, and property.
- **Research Natural Areas, (RNA's), Botanical Areas, Geological Areas**
 - Manage RNA's for scientific research or baseline studies. Protect potential RNA's pending decision by the Chief of the Forest Service.
 - Manage specially designated areas to protect their special qualities and to provide interpretation and education.
- **Eldon Environmental Study Area (ESA)**
 - Provide an area for environmental educational opportunities for the public school system, youth organizations, and the general public by maintaining the ecosystem and developing interpretive facilities.
- **Public Affairs**
 - Provide and promote public participation in and information about forest management to both internal and external publics. Appropriately involve the public in the decisionmaking process. Seek advice and counsel from people who are affected by forest management.
- **Human Resources**
 - Manage human resource programs to provide employment, employee well-being, and economic opportunities to communities while meeting natural resource goals.
- **Land Management Planning**
 - Provide coordination and ensure interdisciplinary input for implementing, monitoring, and updating the Forest Plan.
- **General Administration**
 - Provide a line and staff organization and administrative support needed to ensure responsive and efficient public land management.

Adjacent Management Areas

The management areas of the Coconino NF that border the western edge of the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs are:

- **Management Area 10: Grassland and Sparse Piñon-Juniper Above the Rim** – The management emphasis is range management, watershed condition, and wildlife habitat. Other resources are managed to improve outputs and quality. Emphasis is on prescribed burning to achieve management objectives.
- **Management Area 7: Piñon-Juniper Woodland, Less than 40 Percent Slope** – The management emphasis is firewood production, watershed condition, wildlife habitat, and livestock grazing. Other resources are managed in harmony with the emphasized resources.

- **Management Area 6: Unproductive Timber Land** – Emphasis is a combination of wildlife habitat, watershed condition, and livestock grazing. Other resources are managed in harmony with the emphasized resources.
- **Management Area 3: Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifer, Less than 40 Percent Slope** – Emphasis is a combination of multiple-uses including a sustained yield of timber and firewood production, wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, high quality water, and dispersed recreation.
- **Management Area 19: Mogollon Rim** – Emphasis is dispersed and developed recreation, visual quality, and wildlife travel corridors across the Rim, generally the heads of major canyons running to the northeast. Dwarf mistletoe is aggressively treated.

Future Activities

A review of the January to March 2011 Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) shows the following type of active management planned:

- Forest restoration and fuels reduction treatments including thinning of trees and prescribed fire. (Note: There is an environmental impact statement planned for the first phase of the Four-Forest Restoration Initiative – a project which would treat over 700,000 acres on the Coconino and Kaibab National Forests).
- Infrastructure improvements and new construction (e.g., new public access and parking areas, develop rock pits, repair bridge).
- Recreation improvements and new construction (e.g., expand camping opportunities, construct motorized and non-motorized trails, construct new visitor information kiosks, improve boat ramps)
- Reauthorization of livestock grazing permits.
- Removal of non-native fish species and restoration of native aquatic species.
- Maintain and enhance visual resource values by including visual quality objectives in resource planning and management.
- Recreation improvements and new construction (e.g., realign trail, campsite restoration, develop interpretive trail).
- Infrastructure improvement and construction (e.g., new road construction, electric distribution line construction, bridge replacement).

Gila National Forest

The Gila National Forest Plan is managed by their forest plan, originally published in September 1986. The plan identifies goals in 17 topic areas:

- **Range**
 - Provide forage to the extent that benefits are commensurate with costs without impairing land productivity and within the constraints of social needs.
 - Provide cooperation with other agencies and private range landowners to reduce impacts of livestock grazing.
 - Identify and manage areas that contain threatened and endangered species of plants.
- **Recreation**

- Maintain and enhance visual resource values through application of landscape management principles.
- Maintain a full spectrum of trail opportunities.
- Provide a balanced level of developed and dispersed recreation experiences.
- **Wilderness**
 - Manage the wilderness resource for a quality wilderness experience and to protect and preserve the unique wilderness character of each.
- **Timber**
 - Provide for non-declining sustained yield of timber.
 - Improve site productivity through management.
 - Provide green and dead fuelwood and other forest products on a sustained yield basis.
 - Provide a volume of timber to maintain jobs in dependent communities.
- **Wildlife and Fish Habitat**
 - Manage for a diverse, well-distributed pattern of habitats for wildlife populations and fish species in cooperation with states and other agencies.
 - Maintain and/or improve habitat for threatened or endangered species and work toward the eventual recovery and delisting of species through recovery plans.
 - Integrate wildlife habitat management activities into all resource practices through intensive coordination.
- **Minerals**
 - Administer the mineral laws and regulations to minimize surface resource impacts while supporting sound energy and minerals exploration and development.
- **Soil and Water**
 - Protect and improve the soil resource.
 - Provide for long-term quality waterflow needs through improved management technology.
 - Restore lands in unsatisfactory watershed condition.
- **Riparian**
 - Improve all riparian areas to satisfactory or better condition.
- **Air Quality**
 - Minimize air pollution from land management activities through application and timing of improved management practices.
- **Fire**
 - Provide for fire management support services necessary to sustain resource yields while protecting improvements, investments, and providing for public safety.
- **Law Enforcement**
 - Reduce risk or harm to visitors and damage to public and private property and natural resources through education, enforcement, and cooperation with other agencies.
- **Lands and Special Uses**
 - Conduct landownership adjustment, right-of-way acquisition, land line location, and special-uses programs to promote efficient management.

- **Facilities**
 - Maintain transportation system to support resource goals.
 - Construct, maintain, and regulate use of Forest Service facilities to protect natural resources, correct safety hazards, reduce disinvestment, and support management activities.
- **Cultural Resources**
 - Inventory and prevent loss or damage of cultural resources until they can be evaluated for scientific study, interpretive services, or other appropriate uses.
 - Enhance and interpret cultural resources so that the public may gain a better understanding and perspective of our heritage.
 - Encourage and conduct scientific studies to gain knowledge about past human behavior.
- **Land Management Planning**
 - Provide coordination and insure interdisciplinary input for implementing, monitoring, and updating the Forest Plan.
- **Human Resources**
 - Manage human resource programs to provide employment and economic development opportunities while meeting natural resource goals.
- **Research Natural Areas**
 - Protect RNA values and manage for scientific and baseline studies.

Adjacent Management Areas

The management areas of the Gila NF that border the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs from north to south along the New Mexico border are:

- **Management Area 3D** – management emphasis is to provide for a long term increase of about 20 percent in herbaceous forage for wildlife; manage woodlands and forests to provide wildlife habitat; manage suitable timber to provide long-term sustained yield; fuelwood harvest to provide sustained yield; recreation opportunities range from semi-primitive to roaded natural.
- **Management Area 3B** - management emphasis is to provide for a long term increase of about 40 percent in herbaceous forage for wildlife; manage woodlands and forests to provide wildlife habitat; manage suitable timber to provide long-term sustained yield; fuelwood harvest to provide sustained yield; recreation opportunities range from semi-primitive to roaded natural.
- **Management Area 3A** – management emphasis is to provide for a long term increase of about 60 percent in herbaceous forage for wildlife; manage woodlands and forests to provide wildlife habitat; manage wilderness resource to protect and restore natural conditions; manage suitable timber to provide long-term sustained yield; fuelwood harvest to provide sustained yield; recreation opportunities range from primitive to roaded natural.
- **Management Area 4B** - management emphasis is to provide for a long term increase of about 10 percent in herbaceous forage for wildlife; manage woodlands and forests to provide wildlife habitat; manage wilderness resource to protect and restore natural conditions; manage suitable timber to provide long-term sustained yield; fuelwood harvest to provide sustained yield; recreation opportunities range from primitive to roaded natural.

- **Management Area 7** – management emphasis is to provide for a long term increase of about 30 percent in herbaceous forage for wildlife; manage woodlands and forests to provide wildlife habitat; manage wilderness resource to protect and restore natural conditions; fuelwood harvest to provide sustained yield; recreation opportunities range from semi-primitive motorized to roaded natural.
- **Management Area 4C** - management emphasis is to provide for a long term increase of about 20 percent in herbaceous forage for wildlife; manage woodlands and forests to provide wildlife habitat; manage wilderness resource to protect and restore natural conditions; manage suitable timber to provide long-term sustained yield; fuelwood harvest to provide sustained yield; recreation opportunities range from semi-primitive to roaded natural.

Future Activities

A review of the January to March 2011 Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) shows the following type of active management planned:

- Abandoned mine closures and mill site reclamation. Drill pad construction for tellurium and gold exploration.
- Fuels management and habitat improvement including prescribed burning and tree thinning and cutting.
- Vegetation treatments in powerlines corridors.
- Livestock grazing management.
- Gully rehabilitation.

Tonto National Forest

The Tonto National Forest is currently managed by their forest plan originally developed in October 1985. The plan identifies 5 forestwide goals:

- **Soil, Water and Air Quality** - Provide direction and support to all resource management activities to: (1) meet minimum air and water quality standards; (2) emphasize improvement of soil productivity, air and water quality; (3) augment water supplies when compatible with other resources; (4) enhance riparian ecosystems, by improved management. All major riparian areas under intensive management by 1995; (5) obtain water rights necessary to ensure orderly resource development; and (6) inventory and interpret soil, air and water resources. Resource planning and management activities within the desert zone must fully recognize the limitations this unique ecosystem has to the impacts of people's uses and activities.
- **Fire Management** - Fire will be recognized as a resource management tool and will be included within a management prescription where it can effectively accomplish resource management objectives. The long term goal of fire management is to re-introduce fire back into fire dependent ecosystems and allow it to resume its natural role. The priorities for managing wildland fire will be the protection of public and firefighter safety, property and natural and cultural resources to minimize negative impacts. Fire management, including suppression activities, will be commensurate with resource values and objectives. The criteria for determining and managing wildland and prescribed fires must meet agency direction.

- **Pest Management** – Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM), manage resources to prevent a build-up of insects and diseases, which in turn, can prevent or reduce serious, long lasting hazards
- **Wildlife and Fish** - Wildlife and fish habitat elements will be recognized in all resource planning and management activities to assure coordination that provides for species diversity and greater wildlife and fish populations through improvement of habitat. Ensure that fish and wildlife habitats are managed to maintain viable populations of existing native vertebrate species. Improve habitat for selected species. Cooperate with appropriate State fish and wildlife agencies. Prevent destruction or adverse modification of critical habitats for Threatened and Endangered species and manage for a goal of increasing population levels that will remove them from the lists.
- **Transportation and Utility Corridors** - Provide that right-of-ways grants are confined to designated corridors to the extent practicable.

Adjacent Management Areas

There is only one Tonto NF management area that lies adjacent to the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs:

- **Management Area 4D: Payson Ranger District, Mogollon Rim Area** – The management emphasis is to manage for a variety of renewable resource outputs with primary emphasis on intensive, sustained yield timber management, timber resource protection, creation of wildlife habitat diversity, increased populations of harvest species and recreation opportunity. Recreation opportunities range from semi-primitive to urban.

Future Activities

A review of the January to March 2011 Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) shows the following type of active management planned:

- Livestock grazing management.
- Fuels management and habitat improvement including prescribed burning.
- Noxious and invasive weed treatment.
- Exploratory drilling for uranium.
- Recreation new construction (new trails).

Four-Forest Restoration Initiative

The Four-Forest Restoration Initiative is a collaborative effort to restore forest ecosystems on portions of four national forests - Coconino, Kaibab, Apache-Sitgreaves, and Tonto - along the Mogollon Rim in northern Arizona. Environmental analysis for the proposed action began in 2010.

The overall goal of the four-forest effort is to create landscape-scale restoration approaches that will provide for fuels reduction, forest health, and wildlife and plant diversity. A key objective is doing this while creating sustainable ecosystems in the long term. Appropriately-scaled businesses will likely play a key role in the effort by harvesting, processing, and selling wood products. This will reduce treatment costs and provide restoration-based work opportunities that will create good jobs. More information

can be found at:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet!/ut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gjAwhwtD Dw9 AI8zPwhQoY6BdkOyoCAPkATIA!/?ss=110307&navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&cid=FSE_003777&navid=1401100000000000&pnavid=1400000000000000&position=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&ttype=main&pname=Kaibab%20National%20Forest-%20Partnerships

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The main role of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) main role is to administer the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Section 7 (a)(1) of the ESA directs Federal agencies to aid in conservation of listed species and section 7 (a)(2) requires that agencies, through consultation with the USFWS, ensure that their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. As projects and activities are planned, forest managers consult with the USFWS.

The USFWS also issues national policies to promote the conservation and recovery of listed species, including species recovery plans. The USFWS is in the process of developing a strategic plan to react to climate change.

The USFWS manages the National Wildlife Refuge System; there are no refuges near the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs. They occur primarily in the far west and southern portions of Arizona and central New Mexico.

Other Land Owners

The Apache-Sitgreaves NFs border and surrounds other ownerships besides those listed above. There is no known inventory of these land owners activities and potential impacts to the forests.

Conclusion

As identified above, other land owners and land policies have the potential to impact the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs and vice-versa. In the development of the land management plan, these considerations have been taken into account. The following table identifies some of the key potential impacts and how the plan deals with those impacts, as well as potential activities on adjacent lands that may impact forest management. No major conflicts with Forest Service planning have been identified at this time.

Table 2. Potential impacts to forest management and relationship to the plan

Potential Impacts/Issues	How the Plan Addresses
Call for multiple-use of the forests	The overall goal of managing National Forest System lands is to sustain the multiple uses of its resources in perpetuity while maintaining the long-term productivity of the land. The plan carries out that goal.
Community growth demand	The plan identifies a management emphasis to work with local communities to understand their community expansion needs and retain access to NFS land.

Potential Impacts/Issues	How the Plan Addresses
Danger from fire for residents living in a wildland-urban interface	<p>Desired Condition: The composition, density, structure, and mosaic of vegetative conditions reduce uncharacteristic wildfire hazard to local communities and forest ecosystems.</p> <p>Desired Condition: Forest visitors have access to information about topics of concern related to the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs (e.g., ecosystem restoration, unmanaged recreation, uncharacteristic wildfire), including appropriate visitor behavior (e.g., follow forest orders, pack out trash, appropriate sanitation, wildfire prevention).</p> <p>The vegetative treatment objectives are prioritized in priority watersheds and areas identified in community wildfire protection plans.</p>
Improve forest health and promote the restoration of ecosystems	The desired conditions describe a healthy, sustainable forest and the objectives identify actions that would help restore ecosystems.
Maintain a healthy, sustainable forest that provides raw materials	Desired Condition: The Apache-Sitgreaves NFs provide a sustainable supply of forest products (e.g., small roundwood, sawlogs, biomass, firewood, cones, Christmas trees, wildings) to business and individuals within the capability of the land.
Forest-related jobs for the local economy	Timber production and tree cutting continue and contribute to the local and regional economy. Other multiple uses of the forests, including recreation, range, and wildlife, also contribute to the local economy. See the “Economic Contribution” section of the FEIS.
Support local traditional custom and culture	The uses of livestock grazing, timber harvesting, mining, and hunting continue to be allowed in the plan. The plan recognizes that many local residents have traditional ties, such as forest product collection, hunting, holiday celebrations, and annual picnics. Loggers and ranchers continue to be an important part of the forests’ history and their traditional uses remain an important part of the cultural landscape.
Protect private property rights	The plan honors the continuing validity of private, statutory, or pre-existing rights.
Consider local concerns; collaborate with government agencies; consult with tribes	Throughout the plan, there is a management emphasis on collaboration and cooperation with Federal, State, and local governments, tribes, and stakeholders.
Growing demand for recreation (e.g., hiking trails, designated OHV routes)	<p>Desired Condition: The Apache-Sitgreaves NFs offer a spectrum of recreation settings and opportunities varying from primitive to rural and dispersed to developed, with an emphasis on the natural appearing character of the forests.</p> <p>Although the plan does not identify specific new developments, it does allow for it, if needed. The plan focuses on maintaining existing recreation opportunities and improving their quality.</p>
Manage recreation and impacts to communities	<p>The Apache-Sitgreaves NFS lands provide less developed opportunities than residents and visitors find in urban settings, such as greenbelts and parks.</p> <p>Desired Condition: The construction or placement of fences and gates, structures, signs, or other private property on NFS land (occupancy trespass) rarely occurs. Disposal of personal property (e.g., dumping) rarely occurs on NFS lands.</p> <p>Guideline: Access points to NFS land from adjacent non-NFS developments and subdivisions should be limited and provide all residents (not just edge lot owners) common entry points. Individual access points should be discouraged to minimize the development of unauthorized roads or trails.</p>

Potential Impacts/Issues	How the Plan Addresses
Tribal use and traditional cultural properties	<p>Desired Conditions: Significant cultural resources (i.e., archaeological, historic, traditional cultural properties (TCP), and known American Indian sacred sites) are preserved and protected for their cultural importance and are free from adverse impacts.</p> <p>Desired Conditions: Members of affiliated tribes have access to gather forest resources and products for traditional cultural purposes (e.g., medicinal plants, boughs, basket materials, pollen, and plants and minerals for pigments).</p> <p>Desired Conditions: Traditionally used resources are not depleted and are available for future generations.</p> <p>Desired Conditions: Sacred sites and significant TCPs are accessible and free of adverse impacts allowing for culturally affiliated tribes to gather traditional forest products and conduct ceremonies.</p> <p>Desired Conditions: All sacred objects, human remains, funerary objects, and objects of cultural patrimony removed from lands of Apache-Sitgreaves NFs have been repatriated to the appropriate tribe.</p>
Conserve, preserve, enhance, and restore wildlife and their habitats	<p>Desired Condition: Habitat quality, distribution, and abundance exist to support the recovery of federally listed species and the continued existence of all native and desirable nonnative species.</p> <p>Desired Condition: Habitat is well distributed and connected.</p> <p>In addition, the plan focuses on restoring vegetative conditions and wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Desired Condition: Large blocks of habitat are interconnected, allowing for behavioral and predator-prey interactions, and the persistence of metapopulations and highly interactive wildlife species across the landscape. Ecological connectivity extends through all plant communities.</p> <p>Desired Condition: Wildlife are free from harassment and disturbance at a scale that impacts vital functions (e.g., breeding, rearing young) that could affect persistence of the species.</p> <p>The plan also contains other desired conditions that benefit wildlife, including vegetation-specific desired conditions. In addition, the Wildlife Quiet Area Management Area focuses on wildlife habitat.</p>
Provide opportunities for wildlife-related recreation	<p>Desired Condition: Dispersed recreation opportunities (e.g., hunting, fishing, hiking, camping) are available and dispersed recreation sites (e.g., campsites, trailheads, vistas, parking areas) occur in a variety of ROS classes throughout the forests.</p> <p>Objective: Within the planning period, work with the AZGFD, ADOT, and other partners to provide at least 10 new wildlife viewing opportunities.</p>
Minimize impacts from invasive species	<p>Desired Condition: Invasive species (both plant and animal) are nonexistent or in low occurrence to avoid negative impacts to ecosystems.</p> <p>Objective: Annually, contain, control, or eradicate invasive species (e.g., musk thistle, Dalmatian toadflax, cowbirds) on 500 to 3,500 acres.</p> <p>Objective: Annually, control or eradicate invasive species (e.g., tamarisk, bullfrogs) on at least 2 stream miles.</p>
Provide opportunities for shooting sports, off-highway vehicles, and watercraft	The plan continues to allow these activities. The plan provides the framework for future travel management planning.

Potential Impacts/Issues	How the Plan Addresses
Threats related to changes in water availability	<p>Desired Condition: Water developments contribute to fish, wildlife, and riparian habitat as well as scenic and aesthetic values.</p> <p>Desired Condition: Apache-Sitgreaves NFs water rights are secure and contribute to livestock, recreation, wildlife, and administrative uses.</p> <p>Desired Condition: Surface water is not diminished by groundwater pumping.</p> <p>Desired Condition: Dams, diversions, or other water control structures are designed, maintained, and operated to conserve water resources.</p>
Threats related to changes in climate	Appendix A of the plan provides information and discussion about climate change and considerations for land management planning
Public education to benefit wildlife	<p>Desired Condition: Forest visitors have access to information about topics of concern related to the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs (e.g., ecosystem restoration, unmanaged recreation, uncharacteristic wildfire), including appropriate visitor behavior (e.g., follow forest orders, pack out trash, appropriate sanitation, wildfire prevention).</p> <p>Desired Condition: Forest visitors have access to information about the features of the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs, its ecosystems, multiple uses, and other management aspects of the forests.</p> <p>Desired Condition: Interpretive information (e.g., ecology, cultural resources, unique geologic features, Forest Service mission) is available to forest visitors at Apache-Sitgreaves NFs visitor centers, administrative offices, recreation sites, and along major forest roadways.</p>
Other	Appendix A of the FEIS addresses other potential impacts/issues highlighted during the 90-day public comment period.

References

Apache County. 2004. Apache County Comprehensive Plan. St. Johns, Arizona.

<http://www.co.apache.az.us/pdfs/PlanningandZoning/P&ZPage/ApacheCountyComprehensivePlan.pdf>

Arizona Department of Agriculture. Annual Report FY2009-2010. Phoenix, Arizona

Arizona Department of Transportation. 2010. Arizona State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Fiscal Years 2010-2013. Phoenix, Arizona. http://www.azdot.gov/MPD/Priority_Programming/index.asp

Arizona Department of Transportation. 2010. What Moves You Arizona, State Long Range Transportation Plan, Goals & Objectives. Phoenix, Arizona.
http://www.whatmovesyouarizona.gov/your_home.asp

Arizona Department of Water Resources. 2011. Missions and Goals. Phoenix, Arizona.
<http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/PublicInformationOfficer/MissionAndGoals.htm>

Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2006. Arizona's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005-2015. Phoenix, Arizona.

Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2007. Wildlife 2012 Strategic Plan. Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona.

Arizona State Forestry Division. 2010. Arizona Forest Resource Assessment. Phoenix, Arizona.
http://www.azsf.az.gov/forest_strategy.asp

Arizona State Forestry Division. 2010a. Arizona Forest Resource Strategy. Phoenix, Arizona.
http://www.azsf.az.gov/forest_strategy.asp

Arizona State Land Department. 2011. Real Estate Division. Phoenix, Arizona.
<http://www.land.state.az.us/programs/realestate/futureDisp.htm#apache>

Arizona State Land Department. 2011. State Land Department Historical Overview. Phoenix, Arizona.
<http://www.land.state.az.us/history.htm>

Arizona State Parks. 2007. Arizona 2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Phoenix, Arizona.

Arizona State Parks. 2009. Arizona Trails 2010: A Statewide Motorized and Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Plan. Phoenix, Arizona.

Arizona State Parks. 2010. Arizona State Parks FY09/10 Annual Report July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010. Phoenix, Arizona.

Brady, Lance. 2011. Personal Communication. Safford District Bureau of Land Management.

Bureau of Land Management. 1991. Safford District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management. Safford, Arizona.

Bureau of Land Management. 2011. U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Arizona 2011 NEPA Project Log.

Catron County. 1992. Catron County Comprehensive Land Use and Policy Plan. Bountiful, UT: National Federal Lands Conference.

Coconino County. 2003. Greenlee County. Coconino County Comprehensive Plan. Flagstaff, Arizona. <http://www.coconino.az.gov/comdev.aspx?id=142>

Eastern Arizona Counties Organization. 2013. Eastern Arizona Counties Organization comments on the Programmatic Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Land Management Plan. May 15, 2013. Show Low, Arizona.

Federal Highway Administration. 2010. Planning Update 1: Long Range Transportation Plan for Forest Highways in Arizona. U.S. Department of Transportation. Federal Highway Administration.

Federal Highway Administration. 2011. Who We Are. U.S. Department of Transportation. Federal Highway Administration. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/whoweare/whoweare.htm>

Forest Service. 1987. Coconino National Forest Plan. United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Southwestern Region.

Forest Service. 1985. Tonto National Forest Plan. United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Southwestern Region.

Forest Service. 1986. Gila National Forest Plan. United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Southwestern Region.

Forest Service. 2005. Socio-Economic Assessment for the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. School of Natural Resources. Tucson, Arizona.

Forest Service. 2008. Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Economic and Social Sustainability Assessment. United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Southwestern Region

Forest Service. 2011. Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA) 01/01/2011 to 03/31/2011 Coconino National Forest.

Forest Service. 2011. Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA) 01/01/2011 to 03/31/2011 Gila National Forest.

Forest Service. 2011. Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA) 01/01/2011 to 03/31/2011 Tonto National Forest.

Fort Apache Agency White Mountain Apache Tribe. 2005. Forest Management Plan 2005 – 2014. White River, Arizona.

Governor's Forest Health Councils, State of Arizona. 2007. The Statewide Strategy for Restoring Arizona's Forests. Aumack, E., T. Sisk, and J. Palumbo, editors. Published by Arizona Public Service. Phoenix, Arizona.

Greenlee County. 2003. Greenlee County Comprehensive Plan. Clifton, Arizona.
<http://www.co.greenlee.az.us/pz/pdfs/ComprehensivePlan.pdf>

Logan Simpson Design, Inc. 2004. Community Wildfire Protection Plan for At-Risk Communities of the Apache National Forest in Apache County. Tempe, Arizona

Logan Simpson Design, Inc. 2004. Community Wildfire Protection Plan for At-Risk Communities of the Sitgreaves National Forest in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo Counties. Tempe, Arizona.

Logan Simpson Design, Inc. 2005. Greenlee County Community Wildfire Protection Plan for At-Risk Communities of the Apache National Forest in Greenlee County. Tempe, Arizona.

Logan Simpson Design, Inc. 2010. Southern Gila County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Tempe, Arizona.

LVA Urban Design Studio, L.L.C., Kimley-Horne and Associates, Inc. 2003. Gila County Comprehensive Plan. Globe, Arizona.

Navajo County. 2004. Navajo County Comprehensive Plan.

San Carlos Apache Tribe. 2010. San Carlos Apache Tribe - Recreation and Wildlife. San Carlos, Arizona. University of Arizona. <http://www.scatrwd.com/>

San Carlos Apache Tribe. 2011. San Carlos Forestry Web Site. <http://forestry.scatsn.gov/publicweb/forestry.html>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Consultations – Overview. United States Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/consultations-overview.html>

White Mountain Apache Tribe. 2010. Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division. Whiteriver, Arizona.
<http://wmatoutdoors.org/>

Appendix A

See the revision mailing list database for a current list of Federal agencies, State and local governments, and American Indian tribes. The mailing list for each public involvement event can be found in the Plan Set of Documents.

The following lists those Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian tribes that have responded in writing during the plan revision process prior to the release of the FEIS. See the Plan Set of Documents, especially the collaboration log, for a list of Tribal collaboration efforts.

The Plan Set of Documents (i.e., the formal record for plan revision) contains a list of the Federal agencies, State and local governments, and American Indian tribes that has been involved in the plan revision process. A list of tribal collaboration efforts can be found in the collaboration log.

Date	Entity	Topic
05/15/2006	Greenlee County	Letter providing the Greenlee County Zoning Regulations, Comprehensive Plan, and Land Use Resource Policy Plan
10/12/2006	City of Show Low	Need for Change. Letter from Ed Muder, Interim City Manager
12/08/2006	Environmental Protection Agency	Initiate formal communications
03/16/2007	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Letter to Regional Forester, Harv Forsgren. Outlines the Department's concerns regarding the Arizona Forests revision efforts.
07/08/2007	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Letter to Regional Forester, Harv Forsgren. Provides comments on both land management planning and travel management planning.
02/09/2007	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	Comment letter to address surface water quality protection in the ASNF.
03/16/2007	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Comment letter to Regional Forester regarding concerns that may be best addressed at regional level.
08/19/2007	White Mountain Apache Tribe, Historic Preservation Office	Email from Mark Altaha regarding draft desired conditions.
03/18/2008	Town of Pinetop-Lakeside	Letter regarding special recreation designation for Woodland Lake Park
05/23/2008	Town of Pinetop-Lakeside	Letter of inquiry regarding

		special recreation designation for Woodland Lake Park
06/20/2008	US Fish and Wildlife Service	List of federally endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species for the ASNFs
08/19/2008	White Mountain Apache Tribe, Historic Preservation Office	Comments regarding draft desired conditions.
08/28/2008	Federal Highway Administration	Email from Steve Thomas, Environmental Program Manager regarding draft desired conditions.
09/05/2008	The Navajo Nation	Tribal Consultation Request
10/16/2008	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Comment letter regarding draft desired conditions
02/18/2009	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Comment letter regarding NOI (Initiation)
03/23/2009	Federal Highway Administration	Comment letter regarding NOI (Initiation)
07/20/2009	Catron County	Letter requesting coordination with Forest Service on the revision of the Catron County Comprehensive Land Use and Policy Plan
08/05/2009	Navajo Nation	Letter concludes that the proposed project will not impact any Navajo traditional cultural properties
08/31/2009	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Comment letter: working draft plan
09/11/2009	Gila National Forest	Wilderness evaluation
02/01/2010	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Comment letter: NOI (Intent)
02/15/2010	Catron County	Invitation to meet with the Catron County Commissioners
02/17/2010	Catron County	Invitation to meet with the Catron County Commissioners
03/05/2010	Apache County	Email with attachments: Senate Bill for Resolution Copper and DOI Designation report
03/23/2010	Town of Eagar	Town resolution regarding coordination and cooperation in the ASNF proposed Travel Management Plan and Forest Plan Revision
03/26/2010	Tonto Apache Tribe	Comment form: draft alternatives
03/26/2010	Catron County	Email thank you for receipt of March revision update, request

		meeting on issues.
04/19/2010	Catron County, New Mexico	Comment letter: draft alternatives
04/20/2010	Apache County	Email request for forest vegetation maps
04/27/2010	Arizona State Land Department	Comment letter: draft alternatives
04/28/2010	White Mountain Apache Tribe	Mark Altaha shared the cultural heritage resource best management practices
04/28/2010	White Mountain Apache Tribe	Email with list of Travel Management Concerns and information for meeting
05/05/2010	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Comment letter: draft alternatives
02/14/2013	Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe	Comment letter: proposed plan and DEIS
02/20/2013	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	Comment letter: proposed plan and DEIS
05/08/2013	Arizona State Lands Department	Comment letter: proposed plan and DEIS
05/08/2013	Town of Eagar	Comment letter: proposed plan and DEIS
05/14/2013	Graham County	Comment letter: proposed plan and DEIS
05/15/2013	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Comment letter: proposed plan and DEIS
05/15/2013	Environmental Protection Agency	Comment letter: proposed plan and DEIS
05/16/2013	Apache County	Comment letter: proposed plan and DEIS
05/16/2013	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Comment letter: proposed plan and DEIS
05/17/2013	Eastern Arizona Counties Organization	Comment letter: proposed plan and DEIS
05/17/2013	Gila County	Comment letter: proposed plan and DEIS
05/17/2013	Greenlee County	Comment letter: proposed plan and DEIS
05/17/2013	Navajo County	Comment letter: proposed plan and DEIS